

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for selecting a proxy server that stores a web resource from an array of proxies in a network. A disclosed proxy selector reduces the latency and bandwidth utilization required to obtain Web resources. A given proxy server is selected based on a proxy selection table generally maintained by each client. The proxy selection table redirects requests to a given proxy server in an array of proxy servers, based on the address of the requested resource and the recent history of client request patterns. The proxy selection table can encode the assignment of heavy file types and heavy domains to individual proxy servers. When a client requests a web resource, the proxy selection table is accessed to redirect the request to the appropriate proxy server. If the resource type is a heavy type, the request is redirected to one or more proxy servers responsible for heavy file types. If the resource is provided by a heavy domain, the request is redirected to the proxy server responsible for that domain. If the resource type is not a heavy type or provided by a heavy domain, a hash function is applied to only the domain part of the URL to identify a proxy server from which to obtain the desired resource.

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